



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

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November 26, 2012

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
820 Davis Street
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Representative Schakowsky:

In November 2008, the first new runway in 40 years opened at O'Hare sending as many as 400 flights daily down Belle Plaine Avenue. For residents close to the new runway, there are days when flights as loud as a lawn mower occur every 45 seconds for hours on end. Pollution is increased, safety is a concern, sleep is disrupted, outdoor areas cannot be used for conversation, and the quality of life has decreased considerably.

Plans for O'Hare expansion include adding a runway near Granville Avenue at the south end of Park Ridge and decommissioning two existing runways that do not line planes up to fly over our city. Recently, plans have been released for a cargo facility on the northeast side of the airport, which will bring the loudest planes directly over us during nighttime hours. It has been estimated Park Ridge will receive up to 250% more flight activity when O'Hare expansion is complete; over 1,000 flights daily throughout the day and night.

We support "Fly Quiet" and other common sense measures to protect the communities surrounding O'Hare while allowing for responsible expansion of airport activities. Recently, we sent our second letter to the FAA requesting further review of the environmental impact of continued expansion, and requesting a meeting with FAA officials.

Without your assistance, we fear that nobody is looking out for the people being affected by expansion. The truth is that the communities of Park Ridge and the surrounding areas were here long before O'Hare, and those that came into the community before the expansion deserve a voice and protection. We are looking for that voice through you, our elected representative.

Please support us by advocating:

- Stopping the decommissioning of existing runways
- Decreasing traffic by using previously existing non-residential runways for early morning, evening and weekend traffic
- Stopping construction of cargo facilities in the northeast portion of the airport
- Modifying flight paths to avoid schools and residential areas as much as possible

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This is a complicated issue that affects many people and businesses. We would very much appreciate time to meet with you to further share with you the facts of the expansion, the effect on residents, and the relief measures that could benefit the community while allowing for responsible airport expansion. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mayor David Blount

Alderman Matt McEl

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Alderman Richard DiPietro

Alderman Jim Smith